

Number 12 (May-September 2014)

NM-BULLETIN

NATIONAL MUSEUM • New Delhi



Welcome

NATIONAL MUSEUM • New Delhi

Foreword

The Highlight of the summer months at National Museum was the children's programme called *Playtime at National Museum*. The summer programme saw a large number of children participate in a myriad of activities including workshops on art, craft, ancient languages and appreciation of paintings and sculptures. This occasion was also marked by the release of two special activity books- *Birds and Animals in Indian Art* and *Life in Harappan Civilization* which received good reviews from audiences and from museum enthusiasts the world over. These books were written and designed by the Education and Outreach departments of National Museum with contributions from curators.

In continuation with the trend of special exhibitions, National Museum opened its second special exhibition of 2014, titled *A Passionate Eye- Textiles, paintings and Sculptures from the Bharany Donation* in July 2014. On this occasion, the Museum welcomed the new Hon'ble Minister of Culture Sh. Shripad Naik who appreciated the need for more such special exhibitions. This particular exhibition, acknowledged the contributions of the veteran private collector CL Bharany who donated nearly 1000 objects to the Museum in 1976 in memory of his father RK Bharany.

The National Museum Lecture Series (NMLS) has also been doing very well and in the series Naman Ahuja, William Dalrymple, Vinod Daniel, Dr. Giles Tillotson and Prof Romila Thapar spoke at the Museum enthraling audiences and bringing up pressing issues faced by Indian museums. Parallel to the Monthly Lectures, two talk series were also initiated in collaboration with the National Museum Institute, namely the Conservation Talks and the Art History and Archaeology Talks.

The summer months also saw a flurry of young learners where interns from the Delhi based Heritage Education Organization Itihaas sent 10 of its students for a week long internship and college volunteers from Delhi University came and worked with the Museum collections.

Several internal workshops, capacity building programmes and discussions were held in the museum aiming at improving museum interpretation and design and results from these workshops will soon become visible to visitors in our galleries.

The Museum also conducted Communication Workshops for its staff members which was undertaken by veteran HR trainer Dr. Anjali Nigam. The workshops were aimed at preparing the Museum team to face new challenges. In July, National Museum contributed an online exhibition on Pre-Columbian artefacts drawn from its collection on the Google Art Project. The exhibition was inaugurated by Google as part of their second big launch in India in the presence of the Hon'ble Minister of Culture.

A special training programme for in-service Museum professionals of Rajasthan began in August 2014 and will continue for a period of one month. The programme is being run by the Education Department of National Museum. National Museum also collaborated with the Pearl Academy of Design to run a week long workshop on the theme of Freedom, where 25 students participated in an immersive learning experience with the Museum and its collections.

In the next few months the Museum galleries will undergo visual changes in interpretation and presentation and audiences should look out for that. Several interesting exhibitions and publications are also about to be launched as are a series of memorial lectures starting September 2014.

Although many new activities are happening, the Museum continues to draw benefit from the large pool of its Museum volunteers who tirelessly work for their passion and improving the Museum Experience. A special exhibition titled *Down Memory Lane* was also organized at National Museum in May 2014 which showed archival photographs of the Museum's establishment and the story of its collections. The exhibition was popular, both with audiences and the NM staff members.

Museum consultant Shubha Banerji visited British Museum to participate in the International Training Programme in August 2014. Such exchanges help the Museum to remain in touch with other colleagues from across the globe.

Dr. Venu Vasudevan
Director General, National Museum

Welcome

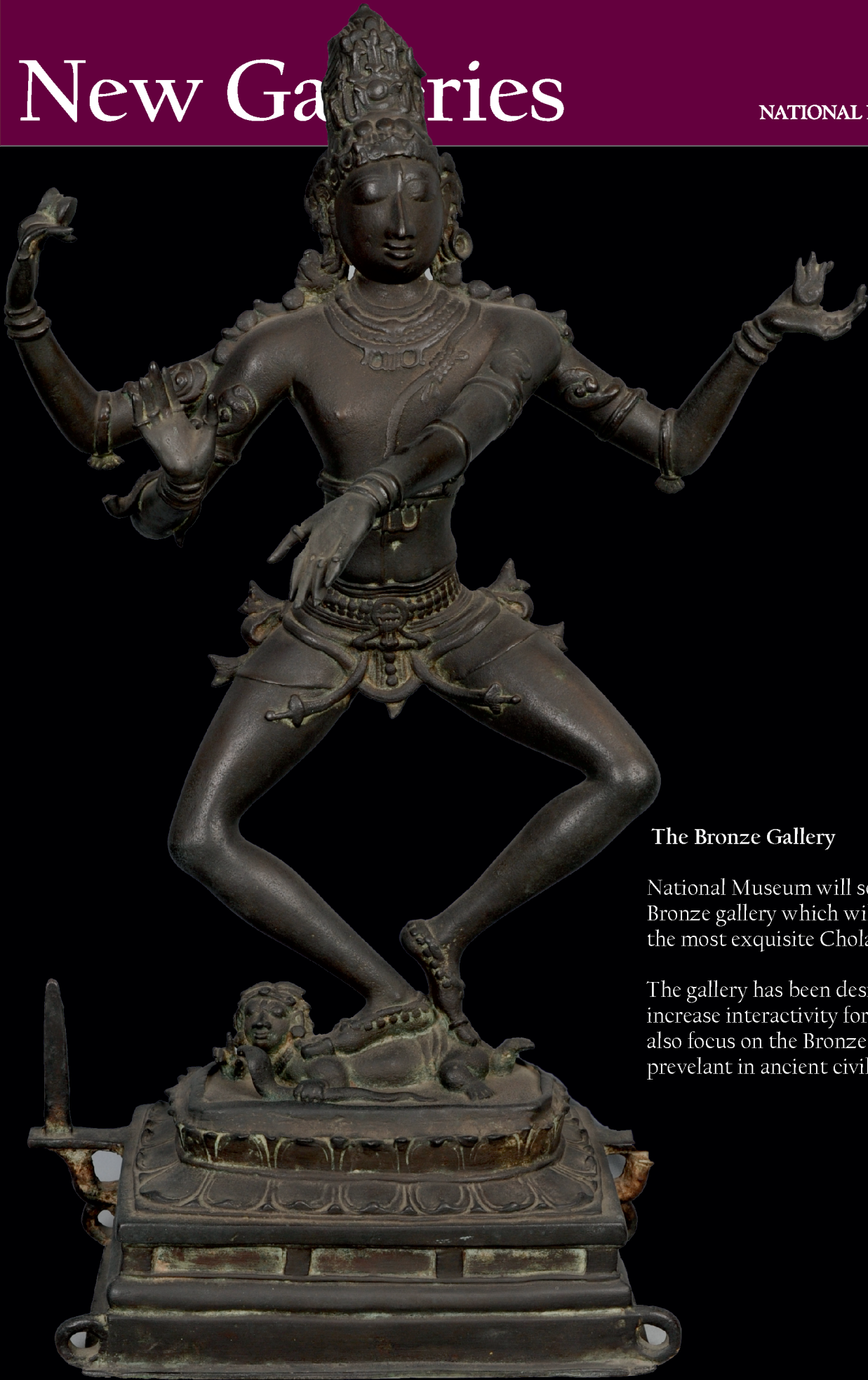
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Right: Prof. Romila Thapar delivering the eighth National Museum Lecture
Below: Group photograph of National Museum employees in 1976



New Galleries

NATIONAL MUSEUM • New Delhi



The Bronze Gallery

National Museum will soon be reopening the Bronze gallery which will showcase some of the most exquisite Chola and Eastern Bronzes.

The gallery has been designed specially to increase interactivity for audiences and will also focus on the Bronze casting methods prevalent in ancient civilizations.

Exhibitions

NATIONAL MUSEUM • New Delhi



A view of the exhibition galleries

A Passionate Eye: Textiles, Paintings and Sculptures from the Bharany Donation

National Museum recently organized a special exhibition 'A Passionate Eye : Textiles, Paintings and Sculptures' from the Bharany Donation in collaboration with Eka Archiving Resources. The exhibition showcased a selection of items from a major donation made to National Museum in 1976 by Shri C.L. Bharany, in memory of his father, Shri R.K. Bharany. Supported by some items from the Bharany private collection, it highlighted the role played by private collectors in enriching the India's public museum. In this exhibition hundreds of items across a wide variety were showcased: Sculptures in stone, bronze, terracotta and wood; paintings on paper and cloth; manuscripts, textiles and coins are present. These objects represent every era from the 1st to the 20th centuries, and every region of India from Kashmir to Kerala and from Gujarat to Bengal. The exhibition was co-curated by Dr. Gilles Tillotson with Pramod Kumar KG and Mrinalini Venkateswaran of Eka Archiving Services, and designed by Siddhartha Chatterjee of Seechange.

The exhibition was inaugurated by Sh Shripad Naik, Hon'ble Minister of Culture in the presence of Sh. CL Bharany, Sh. Ravindra Singh, Secretary Culture and Dr. Venu Vasudevan, Director General, National Museum.

The exhibition was accompanied by a large number of educational programmes, particularly for children and weekly curator walks that provided a deeper insight into the collections and their details. These walks were taken by many subject experts- Dr. Giles Tillotson, Mrinalini Venkateswaran and Pramod Kumar KG as curators, Rajeshwari Shah, miniature paintings expert, Dr. vandana Tiwari, Textile expert, Dr. Vibhuti Sachdev, Design expert, Monisha Ahmad, Pashmina Expert, Deepshikha Kalsi, Textile Conservator and Siddhartha Chatterjee, Designer of the exhibition.

While the exhibition was on show Dr. Giles Tillotson, co-curator of the exhibition delivered the 7th National Museum lecture on the role of private collectors in public institutions.

Exhibitions

NATIONAL MUSEUM-New Delhi



Layout Artist, Sh Kuldeep Singh and Foreman Sh Shivkumar during the installation of the exhibition

An image of Vishnu and a brocade textile from Kahsmir that were part of the exhibition



Exhibitions

NATIONAL MUSEUM • New Delhi



The exhibition galleries with innovative and conservation-friendly displays of textiles



Exhibitions

NATIONAL MUSEUM • New Delhi



Young children participate in workshops organized by National Museum and Eka Resources on Textiles and Paintings

Exhibitions

NATIONAL MUSEUM • New Delhi



A special exhibition of archival and rare photographs

Ground Floor Rotunda

भूतल रोटेंडा

Open from
12 May to 12 June 2014
10:00 am to 5:00 pm

12 मई - 12 जून तक
पूर्वाह्न 10.00 बजे से
सायं 5.00 बजे तक

Closed on Mondays
entry with museum ticket

सोमवार अवकाश
प्रवेश संग्रहालय टिकट से

राष्ट्रीय संग्रहालय — नई दिल्ली
National Museum • New Delhi



Down Memory Lane

In May 2014, National Museum organized a special exhibition on the history of the Museum and how it was established.

This exhibition which was mounted on the special occasion of the Foundation day of the Museum showcased a glimpse of its many stories through archival and rare photographs gathered from government institutions and private donors.

In 1946 the idea of building a National Museum for India was proposed by the Gwyer Committee. The Committee was headed by Sir Maurice Gwyer, the First Chief Justice of the then Federal Court.

In the winter months of 1947-48 a large exhibition of Indian arts and crafts, lent by the major museums of India and private owners, was sent out to be held at the Burlington House in London. Before its return to India, with Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru's foresight and support, it was decided that these beautiful objects should be showcased here upon their return so that they could be enjoyed and appreciated by the people of India.

When the objects were back they were first displayed in the State Rooms of the Rashtrapati Bhavan (then called the Government House) on August 15, 1949 and the rooms were formally inaugurated by Shri C. Rajgopalachari, Governor General of India. Later, an impressive plot of land between Maulana Azad Road and Rajpath were earmarked for an independent building for National Museum. You are now standing in that building as you see this exhibition.

This building of National Museum was designed by the architect Ganesh Bikaji Deolalikar and the foundation stone was laid by Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru on May 12, 1955. Once the building was ready, the new museum was inaugurated by Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, Vice-President of India on December 18, 1960.

The exhibition, *Down Memory Lane* was very popular for audiences, particularly children and the archival photographs attracted much appreciation.

Workshops

NATIONAL MUSEUM-New Delhi



Playtime at National Museum

Top: Children enjoy the story-telling session in the Harappa gallery

Bottom left: Children make masks with paper; Bottom right: A child learns the ancient coiling technique of making clay pots from the instructor Shehla Hashmi Grewal



Workshops

NATIONAL MUSEUM • New Delhi

Play-time at National Museum

National Museum conceived and hosted a summer children's programme called Playtime at National Museum. The Programme ran for 2 months, May and June 2014. In each month there were a myriad of activities such as storytelling in galleries, How to look at miniatures?, Print making, Clay-toy making, mask making, Madhubani painting, Miniature painting and activity books.

The summer workshops brought more than 500 children to the Museum for different activities.

Sessions were taken by Dr. Anamika Pathak, Curator, Decorative Arts, Sh. K K Sharma, Deputy Curator, Arms and Armour, Shri Sanjib Kumar, Production Officer, Dr. Kanaklata Singh, Assistant Curator, Shubha Banerji, Museum Consultant, Valentina Trivedi, Shehla Hashmi Grewal, Joyoti Roy, Outreach Consultant, Rige Shiba Assistant Curator, and by many more experts of this field.

The Playtime workshops were coordinated by Joyoti Roy, Outreach Department, Rige Shiba Assistant Curator, Education, Namita Malik, Coordinator of Volunteer programmes and Indra Vats, Coordinator of Voluntary programmes under the overall guidance of Dr. Vijay Mathur, Curator, Education.

The workshops were quite enriching and involved children very differently by enhancing their understanding about the arts, engaging them in hands-on works and encouraging reflective learning in story telling sessions.

The workshops were also made possible by the contributions and ideas of curators who were involved.

Top: Valentina Trivedi tells a story on a Harappan boy
Middle: Dr. Anamika Pathak shows a Phad painting to children
Bottom: Young children make their own armour with Subrata Sen after handling objects in the arms and armour section



Workshops

NATIONAL MUSEUM • New Delhi

Internship for DU Students

The National Museum held a one month internship in June 2014 for college students from Delhi University. The students were mainly involved in communicating with curators of different collections and preparing new labels for their galleries. They also had the opportunity to use the National Museum library for additional information.

POW WOW Workshops with Pearl Academy

National Museum collaborated with Pearl Academy of Design, Delhi to host 25 students of Apparel, Communication and Exhibition design to explore the theme of freedom through the collections of National Museum. the workshops were conducted by Joyoti Roy with special lectures by Kanaklata Singh, Yogesh M and Dr. Naman Ahuja. The Workshops were held from 6-10 August 2014.



Programmes

NATIONAL MUSEUM • New Delhi

National Museum Lecture Series

The National Museum organized 5 lectures in the past four months as a part of the National Museum Lecture Series.

The fourth National Museum Lecture was delivered by Dr. Naman Ahuja, Associate Professor, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi on 3rd of May, 2014 on the topic of *'Rapture: The Body of Art'*.

The fifth NMLS was delivered by Dr. William Dalrymple, Historian and Writer on 11th of May, 2014 on the topic of *'Princes and Painters in Mughal Delhi 1707-1857'*.

The sixth NMLS was delivered by Dr. Vinod Daniel, Chairman AusHeritage and CEO, India Vision Institute on 30th June, 2014 on the topic of *'Indian Museums - Becoming more Relevant'*.

The seventh NMLS was delivered by Dr Giles Tillotson, Historian and Writer, on 30th July, 2014 on the topic of *'Collecting in Partnership - The Role of Collectors in Public Institutions'*.

The eight NMLS was delivered by eminent Historian and Writer, Prof. Romila Thapar on 8th August, 2014 on the topic of *'The Museum Experience'*.



Dr. William Dalrymple speaking at the fifth NMLS



Dr. Vinod Daniel speaking at the sixth NMLS



Dr. Giles Tillotson speaking at the seventh NMLS

New Initiatives

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Conservation Talks

The Museum started a new programme in May called the Conservation Talks. The first Conservation talk was delivered by Mr. Abdur Rasheed on the topic of Paper Conservation: Practice in USA, with special reference to Metropolitan Museum of Art. The second talk was delivered by Ms. Shikha Bansal on the topic of Historic Interiors: Conservation Practices in Netherlands.

Art History and Archaeology Talks

In addition to the Conservation Talks, the Museum also introduced the Art History and Archaeology talks in July in collaboration with the National Museum Institute. The First Art and Archaeology talk was delivered by Dr. Akira Shimada on the topic of Discovery of the Amaravati Stupa : Early Excavation and Interpretation. The second Art History Talk was delivered by Dr. Geeti Sen on the topic of Iconic Contemporary Artists of India.

Google Art Project

July ended with the launch of an exhibit on 21 objects of the Pre Columbian collection of the National Museum on the Google Art Project. In future, the National Museum is planning to be more visible on the Google Cultural Institute by digitizing more collections and making a number of exhibits on its objects.



Director General, National Museum at the Google Art Project launch with other dignitaries



Programmes

at National Museum Institute

NATIONAL MUSEUM • New Delhi



Summer School at Vienna for Conservation Students

The National Museum Institute, New Delhi and the University of Applied Arts Vienna, Austria have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to facilitate academic collaboration. Both the institutions are members of Eurasia-Pacific Uninet (a network, which aims at establishing partnerships between Austrian universities, universities of applied sciences, other research institutions, and member institutions in East Asia, Central Asia, South Asia and the Pacific region), which has already facilitated organisation of several workshops in India and training/research fellowships to Indian students in collaboration with the National Museum Institute and University of Applied Arts Vienna.

The first International Summer School was organised in collaboration with the Institute of Conservation and Restoration, University of Applied arts Vienna, Austria from July 15 – August 1, 2014. This Summer School has provided a group of fourteen students from the National Museum Institute an opportunity to live and learn in Vienna – a city known for art, architecture, music, theatre and opera. The Summer School was designed to provide hands-on experience to students on conservation of historic objects and to enable them to gain deeper understanding about the materials and techniques of conservation being followed internationally.

Programmes

at National Museum Institute

NATIONAL MUSEUM • New Delhi



The Summer School has marked a milestone in terms of providing art conservation training to students at par with international standards. The initiative of the Institute to collaborate with the University of Applied Arts Vienna aims to provide much needed impetus to enhance the level of conservation training in India. Such training programmes in future will certainly raise awareness about the National Museum Institute in the international arena, which, in turn, will boost the academic excellence through collaboration and professional exchange with other

Students involved in hands-on activities
at the Summer School in Vienna

Staff News

NATIONAL MUSEUM • New Delhi

Label writing workshop for curators

In the same month there was a workshop held for all Curators of the Museum on developing a 'Label Protocol' which enabled them to follow the same guidelines to prepare new labels for the objects of the permanent galleries of National Museum.

Communication workshop

The National Museum also conducted communication workshop for the museum staff. The workshop was conducted by Dr. Anjali Nigam in which she focused on the need to have efficient internal and external communication. The workshop was spread over 2 days and engaged the staff in group activities, discussions and presentations, which enabled effective communication and

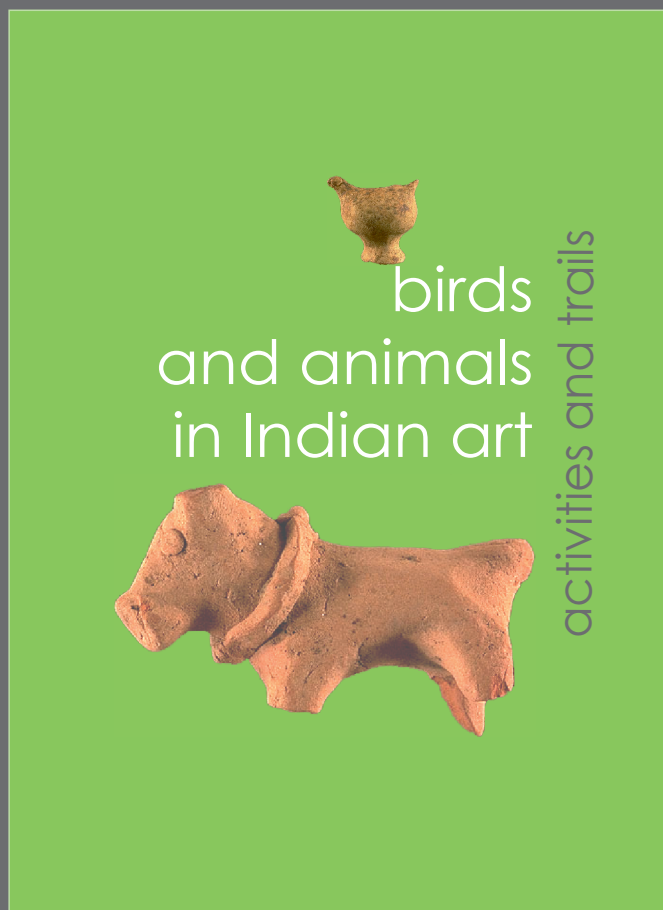


Museum Consultant, Shubha Banerji at the International Training programme at British Museum



Publications

NATIONAL MUSEUM • New Delhi



Birds and Animals in Indian Art

This is a activity book based on the museum objects for children above 7years of age.

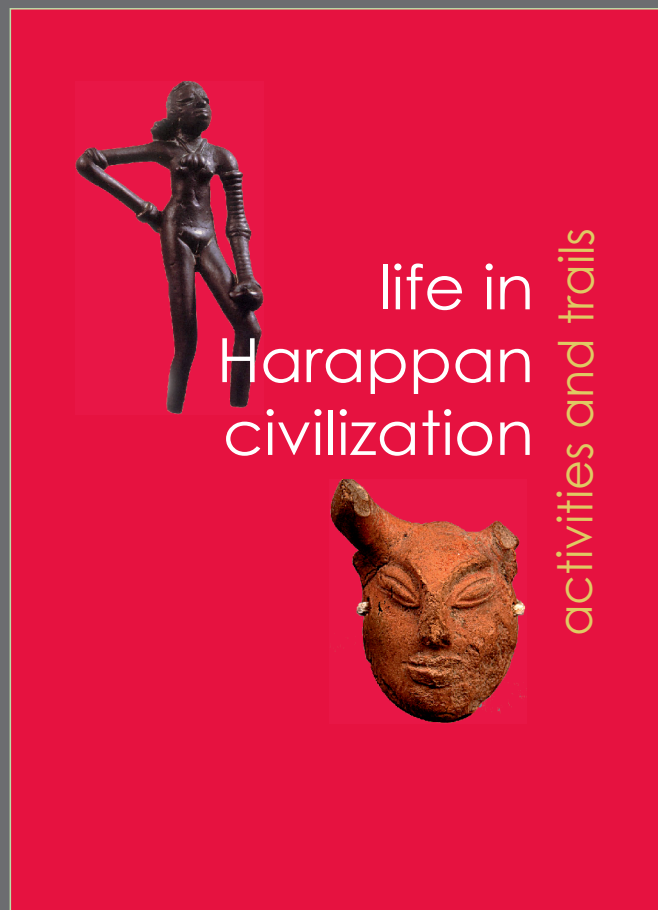
Author: Ms Joyoti Roy.

Price: Rs. 15.

Production: Sanjib Kumar Singh
Publication Assistance: Yogesh Mallinathpur M
Text and Design: Joyoti Roy, Swati Singh and Vasundhra Sangwan
Photographs: Siddhartha Chatterjee and Joyoti Roy

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Life in Harappan Civilisation

This is an activity book on the objects of the Harappan gallery of the National Museum and is for children aged above 7years of age.

Author: Ms Rige Shiba.

Price: Rs. 15.